

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of: Masaaki HAMADA

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

For: CONNECTOR ASSEMBLY AND CONNECTING DEVICE FOR STEERING
 WHEEL

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 addressed to **Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450** on *September 15, 2003* under "EXPRESS MAIL" mailing-label number **EL 989118135 US**.


Elizabeth A. VanAntwerp

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Copies of each of the references listed on Form PTO-1449 are attached.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 CFR § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, References AB-AD are discussed at paragraphs [0007] and [0008] of the present specification.

U.S. Patent 6,508,343 (Ref. AA) corresponds to Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication 2001-239943.

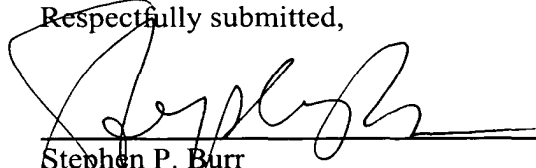
The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office may, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37 C.F.R. 1.104(a) and 1.106(b) concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution

of this application, and that these references be made of record therein and appear among the
"References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

September 15, 2003

Date

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen P. Burr", is written over a horizontal line.

Stephen P. Burr
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Form PTO-1449 US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<i>Complete if Known</i>	
				Application Number	
				Filing Date	
				First Named Inventor	
				Art Unit	
				Examiner Name	
				Confirmation No.	
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket No.	788_116

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam. Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Our Docket No.	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date
	AA	6,508,343	01-21-2003	Misaji et al.				

U.S. COPENDING APPLICATIONS

Exam. Initial		Application/ Publication Number	Filing/ Publication Date	Inventor Name	Our Docket No.	Class	Sub Class

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation	Abstract
	AB	5-238394 A	09-17-1993	JP			JPO Machine Translation	✓
	AC	9-71208 A	03-18-1997	JP			JPO Machine Translation	✓
	AD	P2001-239943 A	09-04-2001	JP			JPO Machine Translation	✓
	AE	10-181611 A	07-07-1998	JP			JPO Machine Translation	✓

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages etc.)

Examiner:		Date Considered:	
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EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.